

CITY OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



October 1, 2019

Kanawha County Public Library
123 Capitol Street
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Board of Directors,

As a member of the Main Library, I am always proud to support the thoughtful programs and opportunities you have provided to our vibrant community. Kanawha County Public Library—through the dedicated support of your wonderful team members, donors, and countless volunteers—has made the library a cornerstone of our community.

I must, however, strongly object to the library's financial support of Orson Scott Card, an author who has a well-documented history of views that are contrary to the City of Charleston's commitment to being an inclusive and welcoming community. I kindly ask you to reevaluate your decision to showcase Mr. Card.

As you know, I do not believe in banning books or limiting free speech in any form. However, I will not support hate speech of any kind and will not participate in the West Virginia Book Festival if Mr. Card is appearing.

Charleston, West Virginia is an inclusive and welcoming community. There is no room for hate.

Sincerely,

Amy Shuler Goodwin
Mayor of Charleston